

Zoledronic acid

Concentrate for Solution for Infusion 4mg/5mL

Read this entire leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further question, ask your doctor or your pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

What is in this leaflet?

1. What Zoledronic acid is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you are given Zoledronic acid
3. How Zoledronic acid is used
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Zoledronic acid
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Zoledronic acid is and what it is used for

Zoledronic acid belongs to a group of substances called bisphosphonates. Zoledronic acid works by attaching itself to the bone and slowing down the rate of bone change.

Zoledronic acid is used for:

- Prevention of skeletal related events in advanced malignancies involving bone
- Tumor-induced hypercalcemia
- Paget's disease of bone
- Osteoporosis (including corticosteroid-induced osteoporosis) in men and postmenopausal women

2. What you need to know before you are given Zoledronic acid

Follow carefully all instructions given to you by your doctor. Your doctor will carry out blood tests before you start treatment with Zoledronic acid and will check your response to treatment at regular intervals.

You should not be given Zoledronic acid:

- if you are breast-feeding.
- if you are allergic to zoledronic acid, another bisphosphonate, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor before you are given Zoledronic acid:

- if you have or have had a kidney problem.
- if you have or have had pain, swelling or numbness of the jaw, a feeling of heaviness in the jaw or loosening of a tooth. Your doctor may recommend a dental examination before you start treatment with Zoledronic acid.

- if you are having dental treatment or are due to undergo dental surgery, tell your dentist that you are being treated with Zoledronic acid and inform your doctor about your dental treatment.

While being treated with Zoledronic acid, you should maintain good oral hygiene (including regular teeth brushing) and receive routine dental check-ups.

Contact your doctor and dentist immediately if you experience any problems with your mouth or teeth such as loose teeth, pain or swelling, or non-healing of sores or discharge, as these could be signs of a condition called osteonecrosis of the jaw.

Patients who are undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy, who are taking steroids, who are undergoing dental surgery, who do not receive routine dental care, who have gum disease, who are smokers, or who were previously treated with a bisphosphonate (used to treat or prevent bone disorders) may have a higher risk of developing osteonecrosis of the jaw. Reduced levels of calcium in the blood (hypocalcaemia), sometimes leading to muscle cramps, dry skin, burning sensation, have been reported in patients treated with Zoledronic acid. Irregular heart beat (cardiac arrhythmia), seizures, spasm and twitching (tetany) have been reported as secondary to severe hypocalcaemia. In some instances, the hypocalcaemia may be life-threatening. If any of these apply to you, tell your doctor straight away. If you have pre-existing hypocalcaemia, it must be corrected before initiating the first dose of Zoledronic acid. You will be given adequate calcium and vitamin D supplements. Zoledronic acid should be used with caution in patients with atypical femoral fractures and heart disease. It should also be used with caution in patients who are simultaneously taking drugs that affect kidney function.

Monitoring requirements

- Correct disturbances of calcium metabolism (e.g. vitamin D deficiency, hypocalcaemia) before starting. Monitor serum electrolytes, calcium, phosphate and magnesium.
- Monitor renal function in patients at risk, such as those with pre-existing renal impairment, those of advanced age, those taking concomitant nephrotoxic drugs or diuretics, or those who are dehydrated.

Renal impairment

Avoid in tumor-induced hypercalcemia if serum creatinine above 400 micromole/liter. Avoid in advanced malignancies involving bone if eGFR less than 30 mL/minute/1.73 m² (or if serum creatinine greater than 265 micromole/liter). Avoid in Paget's disease, treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis and osteoporosis in men if eGFR less than 35 mL/minute/1.73 m².

- Dose adjustments: In advanced malignancies involving bone, if eGFR 50-60 mL/minute/1.73 m² reduce dose to 3.5 mg every 3-4 weeks;

if eGFR 40-50 mL/minute/1.73 m² reduce dose to 3.3 mg every 3-4 weeks;

if eGFR 30-40 mL/minute/1.73 m² reduce dose to 3 mg every 3-4 weeks;

if renal function deteriorates in patients with bone metastases, withhold dose until serum creatinine returns to within 10% of baseline value.

If using 4 mg/5 mL concentrate for solution for infusion or preparing a reduced dose of 4 mg/100 mL solution for infusion for

patients with renal impairment, dilute requisite dose according to product literature.

Children and adolescents

Zoledronic acid is not recommended for use in adolescents and children below the age of 18 years.

Patients aged 65 years and over

Zoledronic acid can be given to people aged 65 years and over. There is no evidence to suggest that any extra precautions are needed.

Other medicines and Zoledronic acid

Tell your doctor if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. It is especially important that you tell your doctor if you are also taking:

- Aminoglycosides (medicines used to treat severe infections), calcitonin (a type of medicine used to treat post-menopausal osteoporosis and hypercalcemia), loop diuretics (a type of medicine to treat high blood pressure or oedema) or other calcium-lowering medicines, since the combination of these with bisphosphonates may cause the calcium level in the blood to become too low.

- Thalidomide (a medicine used to treat a certain type of blood cancer involving the bone) or any other medicines which may harm your kidneys.

- Aclasta (a medicine that also contains zoledronic acid and is used to treat osteoporosis and other non-cancer diseases of the bone), or any other bisphosphonate, since the combined effects of these medicines taken together with Zoledronic acid are unknown.

- Anti-angiogenic medicines (used to treat cancer), since the combination of these with Zoledronic acid has been associated with an increased risk of osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ).

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

You should not be given Zoledronic acid if you are pregnant. Tell your doctor if you are or think that you may be pregnant.

You must not be given Zoledronic acid if you are breast-feeding. Ask your doctor for advice before taking any medicine while you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

Driving and using machines

There have been very rare cases of drowsiness and sleepiness with the use of Zoledronic acid. You should therefore be careful when driving, using machinery or performing other tasks that need full attention.

3. How Zoledronic acid is used

Zoledronic acid must only be given by healthcare professionals trained in administering bisphosphonates intravenously, i.e. through a vein.

The usual single dose given is 4 mg.

If you are being treated for the prevention of bone complications due to bone metastases, you will be given one infusion of Zoledronic acid every three to four weeks.

If you are being treated to reduce the amount of calcium in your blood, you will normally only be given one infusion of Zoledronic acid.

For **hypercalcemia of malignancy** a single dose of 4 mg is used, diluted with 100 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% or glucose 5%. The treatment may be repeated if necessary after at least 7 days, at a dose of 4 mg. Individual doses should not exceed 4 mg, as there is an increased risk of adverse renal effects, including renal failure.

Zoledronic acid is given for the prevention of skeletal events in patients with advanced **bone malignancies** at a dose of 4 mg, diluted as above, every 3 to 4 weeks.

For the treatment of **Paget's disease of bone**, Zoledronic acid is given as a single intravenous infusion of 5 mg. Patients who relapse can be re-treated with Zoledronic acid; an additional intravenous infusion of 5 mg may be given after an interval of at least 1 year from the initial dose.

For the treatment of **postmenopausal osteoporosis, osteoporosis in men, and glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis**, the recommended dose is a single intravenous infusion of Zoledronic acid 5 mg given once a year. In patients with a recent low-trauma hip fracture, it is recommended that Zoledronic acid should be started 2 or more weeks after hip fracture repair.

How Zoledronic acid is given

Your doctor will recommend that you drink enough water before each treatment to help prevent dehydration.

If you have a kidney problem, your doctor will give you a lower dose depending on the severity of your kidney problem.

Zoledronic acid is given as a drip (infusion) into a vein which should take at least 15 minutes and should be administered as a single intravenous solution in a separate infusion line.

Patients whose blood calcium levels are not too high will also be prescribed **calcium and vitamin D supplements to be taken each day**.

If you are given more Zoledronic acid than you should be

If you have received doses higher than those recommended, you must be carefully monitored by your doctor. This is because you may develop serum electrolyte abnormalities (e.g. abnormal levels of calcium, phosphorus and magnesium) and/or changes in kidney function, including severe kidney impairment. If your level of calcium falls too low, you may have to be given supplemental calcium by infusion.

4. Possible side effects

Common or very common

Appetite decreased, chills, flushing, alopecia, severe kidney impairment, hypocalcemia

Uncommon

Anaphylactic shock, anxiety, arrhythmias, chest pain, circulatory collapse, cough, drowsiness, dry mouth, dyspnea, hematuria, hyperhidrosis, hypertension, hypotension, leucopenia, muscle spasms, proteinuria, respiratory disorders, sensation abnormal, sleep disorder, stomatitis, syncope, thrombocytopenia, tremor, vision blurred, weight increased, irregular heart rhythm (atrial fibrillation), osteonecrosis (pain in the mouth, teeth and/or jaw, swelling or non-healing sores inside the mouth or jaw, discharge, numbness or a feeling of heaviness in the jaw, or loosening of a tooth)

Rare or very rare

Confusion, Fanconi syndrome acquired, pancytopenia, ear pain, discharge from the ear, and/or ear infection, seizure, numbness,

tetany (secondary to hypocalcemia)

Frequency not known

Acute phase reaction

Side-effects, further information

Renal impairment and renal failure have been reported; ensure patient is hydrated before each dose and assess renal function. Tell your doctor about any of the following side effects as soon as possible:

Very common:

- Low level of phosphate in the blood.

Common:

- Headache and a flu-like syndrome consisting of fever, fatigue, weakness, drowsiness, chills and bone, joint and/or muscle ache. In most cases no specific treatment is required and the symptoms disappear after a short time (couple of hours or days).
- Gastrointestinal reactions such as nausea and vomiting as well as loss of appetite.
- Conjunctivitis.
- Low level of red blood cells (anemia).

Uncommon:

- Hypersensitivity reactions.
- Low blood pressure.
- Chest pain.
- Skin reactions (redness and swelling) at the infusion site, rash, itching.
- High blood pressure, shortness of breath, dizziness, anxiety, sleep disturbances, taste disturbances, trembling, tingling or numbness of the hands or feet, diarrhea, constipation, abdominal pain, dry mouth.
- Low counts of white blood cells and blood platelets.
- Low level of magnesium and potassium in the blood.
- Weight increase.
- Increased sweating.
- Sleepiness.
- Blurred vision, tearing of the eye, eye sensitivity to light.
- Sudden coldness with fainting, limpness or collapse.
- Difficulty in breathing with wheezing or coughing.
- Urticaria.

Rare:

- Slow heart beat.
- Confusion.
- Unusual fracture of the thigh bone particularly in patients on long-term treatment for osteoporosis may occur rarely. Contact your doctor if you experience pain, weakness or discomfort in your thigh, hip or groin as this may be an early indication of a possible fracture of the thigh bone.
- Interstitial lung disease (inflammation of the tissue around the air sacks of the lungs).
- Flu-like symptoms including arthritis and joint swelling.
- Painful redness and/or swelling of the eye.

Very rare:

- Fainting due to low blood pressure.
- Severe bone, joint and/or muscle pain, occasionally incapacitating.

5. How to store Zoledronic acid

- Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

- Store below 30°C and protect from light.

- Do not use Zoledronic acid after the expiry date stated on the pack.

- The diluted Zoledronic acid infusion solution should be used immediately in order to avoid microbial contamination.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Zoledronic acid contains

- The active substance is Zoledronic acid.
- One vial contains 4 mg zoledronic acid, corresponding to 4.264 mg zoledronic acid monohydrate.

- The other ingredients are mannitol and sodium citrate.

Information for the healthcare professional

How to prepare and administer Zoledronic acid

To prepare an infusion solution containing 4 mg zoledronic acid, further dilute the Zoledronic acid concentrate (5.0 mL) with 100 mL of calcium-free or other divalent cation-free infusion solution. To avoid potential incompatibilities, the infusion solution used for dilution must be either 0.9% w/v sodium chloride or 5% w/v glucose solution.

Do not mix Zoledronic acid concentrate with calcium-containing or other divalent cation-containing solutions such as lactated Ringer's solution.

If a lower dose of Zoledronic acid is required, first withdraw the appropriate volume as indicated below and then dilute it further with 100 mL of infusion solution.

Withdraw the appropriate volume of the liquid concentrate, as follows:

- 4.4 mL for 3.5 mg dose
- 4.1 mL for 3.3 mg dose
- 3.8 mL for 3.0 mg dose

For single use only. Any unused solution should be discarded. Only clear solution free from particles and discolouration should be used. Aseptic techniques must be followed during the preparation of the infusion.

From a microbiological point of view, the diluted solution for infusion should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at 2-8°C. The refrigerated solution should then be equilibrated to room temperature prior to administration. The solution containing Zoledronic acid is given as a single 15-minute intravenous infusion in a separate infusion line. The hydration status of patients must be assessed prior to and following administration of Zoledronic acid to ensure that they are adequately hydrated.

Since no data are available on the compatibility of Zoledronic acid with other intravenously administered substances, Zoledronic acid must not be mixed with other medications/substances and should always be given through a separate infusion line.

Sobhan Oncology, Rasht-Iran

Tel: +98 21 83879000

Patient Support Center: +98 21 83878

E-mail: SPC@sobhanoncology.com



00-F17-0004-002

 Sobhan Oncology Co.	
Leaflet	Zoledronic acid solution 4mg
Color	PANTONE 295 U 
Size	210 mm x 310 mm Tolerance: 1±mm
Grammage	58-70 g/m ²
File Name	ZOGV-0000-LF-00
date	06.08.03